

Shildon & East Thickley Urban District.

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

TO

**THE SHILDON AND EAST THICKLEY
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,**

For the Year ending, Dec. 31st, 1905.

S. FIELDEN,

M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,

Fellow of the Incorporated Society of Medical Officers of Health,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



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TO THE SHILDON AND EAST THICKLEY
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Report for the year 1905.

Population.

The estimated population at mid-year in 1905 was 12,853.

The number of occupied houses was 3,000, and this gives an average of 4.28 persons for each house.

Birth Rate.

460 Births were registered during the year (228 males and 232 females), against 459 in 1904 and 479 in 1903, and this represents a birth rate of 35.7 per 1,000 population against 36.4 in 1904 and 38.8 in 1903.

Death Rate.

239 Deaths were registered *in the district*, and to these are to be added 8, of persons *belonging to*, but who died in Public Institutions, *outside the district*, which brings up the total to 247.

This represents a death rate of 19.2 per 1,000 of population against 19.8 in 1904.

The deaths under the age of 1 year numbered 77, equal to a rate of 5.9 per 1,000 of population and of 167 per 1,000 births registered.

The deaths from the principal Zymotic diseases amounted to 35, equal to a rate of 2.7 per 1,000 of population against 2.2 in 1904.

Phthisis caused 9 deaths, equal to a rate of 0.7 per 1,000 of population.

The deaths from Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy numbered 41, equal to a rate of 3.1 per 1,000 of population.

Heart Diseases were responsible for 21 deaths, equal to a rate of 1.6 per 1,000 of population.

5 Deaths were caused by Injuries, including 1 of murder and 3 were the result of suicide.

The deaths which occurred in Public Institutions in the County were as follows :--

Union Workhouse, Bishop Auckland	-	4
Infectious Diseases Hospital	-	1
County Lunatic Asylum, Sedgefield	-	3
	<u>—</u>	8

Of these 6 were males and 2 females.

The following Tables give :

1. The Vital Statistics for this District, the administrative County of Durham, and the whole of England and Wales.

	Per 1,000 of Population.			Per 1,000 Births.
	Birth Rate	G'neral D'th R.	Zymotic D'th Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate
Shildon & E. Thickley Administrative	35.7	19.2	2.7	167
County of Durham	34.4	17.4	2.37	159
England & Wales ...	27.2	15.2	1.52	128

In the administrative County the Boroughs of Gateshead, South Shields, Sunderland and West Hartlepool are NOT INCLUDED.

2. The General Mortality at ages specified in 1905.

At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 to 70	70 to 80	80 to 90
247	77	35	9	7	79	12	18	10

3. Cases of Infectious Disease notified in 1905:

	Diphtheria & Memb. Croup.	Erysipelas.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric.	Puerperal Fever,
January ...	10	—	4	2	—
February ...	7	1	6	—	—
March ...	7	1	8	—	—
April ...	5	—	10	2	—
May ...	5	1	11	—	—
June ...	7	1	5	1	—
July ...	4	—	3	2	—
August ...	2	2	3	2	—
September	1	—	7	15	1
October ...	2	2	4	4	—
November	1	3	4	3	—
December	4	1	3	1	—
 Totals ...	55	12	68	32	1

4. Cases of Infectious Disease notified in :

	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896
Scarlatina ...	68	94	105	98	88	88	27	14	20	74
Diphtheria & Memb. Croup	55	59	143	33	3	4	6	4	—	3
Enteric Fever	32	45	16	15	39	18	44	36	34	17
Continued										
Fever ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal										
Fever ...	1	2	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	12	10	13	13	11	9	8	13	14	11
 Totals ...	169	210	278	159	141	119	87	67	68	105

5. Cases of Infectious Disease notified at ages specified during the year 1905 :

	At all Ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and over.
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cholera	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	55	—	12	32	8	3	—
Erysipelas ...	12	—	—	1	—	9	2
Scarlatina ...	68	1	19	44	3	1	—
Typhus	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever ...	32	—	1	6	6	19	—
Relapsing Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Continued Fever ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Puerperal Fever ...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Plague	—	—	—	—	—	—
 Totals ...	169	1	32	83	18	33	2

6. Cases removed to Tindale Crescent Isolation Hospital in 1905 :

	At all Ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65
Diphtheria ...	25	—	4	14	5	2
Enteric Fever ...	14	—	—	5	2	7
Scarlet ...	23	—	8	15	—	—
 Totals ...	62	—	12	34	7	9

7.—*Population, Birth Rate, Death Rate, &c., for 2 Series of 10 years each.*
1st Series. 1883—1892.

Year	Estimated Population at Midd-Year.	Births	Rate per 1000 population.	Deaths under 1 year.	Rate per 1000 Births register'd	Zymotic Diseases Deaths	Rate per 1000 population.	Deaths at all ages.	Rate per 1000 population.	Rate per 1000 population.
1883	8,879	368	41.4	58	158	27	3.00	182	20.5	
1884	8,967	387	43.2	59	152	23	2.56	169	17.9	
1885	9,052	356	39.3	53	149	17	1.87	175	19.3	
1886	9,143	335	36.6	41	122	20	2.19	151	16.5	
1887	9,232	367	39.7	60	163	15	1.62	167	18.1	
1888	9,320	337	36.1	44	130	6	0.65	160	17.2	
1889	9,408	359	38.2	71	198	36	3.83	193	20.5	
1890	9,496	326	34.3	56	170	27	2.79	177	18.7	
1891	9,587	412	42.9	70	169	27	2.81	227	23.3	
1892	9,790	371	37.8	51	137	10	1.02	162	16.5	
Averages for 10 yrs 1883-1892	9,287	361.8	38.9	56.3	155.6	20.8	2.23	176.3	18.85	

2nd Series. 1893---1902 with those for 1903, 1904 and 1905 appended.

Year.	Estimated Population at Mid-Year.	Births.	Rate per 1000 populat'n	Deaths under 1 year.	Rate per 1000 Births	Rate per 1000 Births register'd	Zymotic Diseases Deaths	Rate per 1000 populat'n	Deaths at all Ages	Rate per 1000 populat'n
1893	9997	355	35.5	85	239	82	8.3	253	25.3	
1894	10209	342	33.49	49	143	7	0.68	145	14.2	
1895	10425	393	37.6	77	195	31	2.97	195	18.6	
1896	10645	326	30.6	43	131	19	1.78	160	15.0	
1897	10871	350	32.1	56	160	15	1.37	180	16.5	
1898	11101	356	32.0	80	224	33	2.97	192	17.2	
1899	11336	383	33.7	70	182	26	2.28	205	18.0	
1900	11576	353	30.4	55	155	18	1.55	188	16.2	
1901	11821	404	34.1	76	188	48	4.06	206	17.4	
1902	12071	385	31.8	53	137	11	0.91	163	13.5	
Averages for 10 yrs. 1893-1902		364.7	33.1	64.4	173.8	29	2.69	186	19.0	
1903	12326	479	38.8	87	181	33	2.67	219	17.7	
1904	12587	459	36.4	92	200	28	2.2	250	19.8	
1905	12853	460	35.7	92	167	35	2.7	247	19.2	

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Smallpox.

No case reported.

Scarlet Fever.

This disease was mostly of mild type. 68 cases were notified and only 1 case ended fatally.

Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.

54 Cases of Diphtheria and 1 of Membranous Croup were notified and of these 3 had a fatal termination. So far as I am aware only 1 case was followed by Paralysis.

Like Scarlatina this disease was never absent during the whole of the year and its continuance and spread are to be ascribed to the causes I have referred to in former reports, viz.: Indifference on the part of many in spite of repeated warnings, and the too frequent visitation of friends at infected houses, &c.

I have constantly pointed out that the Diphtheritic organism will live in the throat for some time after apparent convalescence, and I feel sure the disease is often spread by children returning to school before they are quite free from infection.

Persons who have suffered from Diphtheria ought not to associate with others or attend places of worship or public meetings for at least 4 or 5 weeks after they have apparently recovered.

Enteric Fever.

Over the year 32 cases were notified and two cases ended fatally.

In no case could the disease be traced to the milk or water supply, but on reference to Table 3 it will be observed that there was as in 1904 a sudden outbreak of the disease in September—when 15 cases were reported—soon after the local Flower Show week when Ice Cream Vendors and other questionable characters infect the neighbourhood with their abominable compounds to eat and drink.

In only one case was any very serious sanitary defect discovered.

Measles.

This disease, mostly of mild type, was extremely prevalent for 6 or 8 weeks and was responsible for 7 deaths.

Diarrhœa.

Considering the long continuance of warm, dry weather it was somewhat remarkable that this disease was never very prevalent, and most of the cases occurring in Infants were the result of improper feeding, dirty unventilated houses and parental carelessness. The deaths at all ages amounted to 16.

Whooping Cough.

Many cases of this disease were met with and from it and its complications 6 had a fatal termination.

General Sanitation.

I have made systematic inspections of the district during the year and was frequently accompanied by your late Inspector, Mr. Heslop, and on 2 or 3 occasions by his successor, Mr. Turnbull.

All notified cases of Epidemic Disease have been investigated, verbal and printed instructions have been given, and when any case has terminated or been sent to Hospital the premises have been disinfected. Disinfectants were also supplied when necessary.

Whenever insanitary conditions were found these were attended to without delay.

I have pleasure in congratulating the Council on having unanimously passed a resolution to carry out the Bye-Laws, re-concreting of sites and raising new houses well above street levels.

Much general sanitary work has been completed during the year. A number of the old midden privies have been demolished and replaced by Ash-Closets.

Defective traps have been removed where necessary and replaced by others of better type; and many drain defects have been remedied.

A new sewer was laid in Redworth Road and connected to the main near the railway.

At the back of Hildyard Terrace an entirely new sewer has been put down and the drains in the yards replaced where necessary and connected thereto.

A new sewer was also laid at the back of Magdala Terrace and the drains from the yards properly connected to it.

Many of the drains were defective and new ones substituted. In one case the down-comers from the spouts were found in direct communication with the sewer.

It is very satisfactory to find that, in many of the houses recently erected, baths have been fixed which must of necessity add very greatly to the comfort and convenience of the occupants.

I much regret that street making has not made such progress as I could have wished and I trust the Council will, without further delay, push this work forward vigorously as there are many streets and back streets sadly in need of attention.

The great bulk of the houses occupied by the working classes in this district are decidedly good, and much above the average of those provided in other parts of the County.

And it is very gratifying to know that a very large number of the more provident workmen--all honour to them!—are the proud possessors of the houses in which they live.

Very many of the houses are well-kept, airy, comfortable and home-like; many others--exactly of the same type--are dirty, uninviting, always in disorder, no attempt made to secure ventilation, no home comforts, dirty, stuffy bedrooms, and having pantries and general surroundings in a condition equally unsatisfactory.

In the former class of dwellings you find the children clean, tidy, well-dressed and well-cared for; in the latter, they are ill-fed, unwashed, poorly clad or with only an apology for a garment on at all in some cases.

With such a condition of things can it be wondered at that there is much disease and mortality amongst infants?

In former reports I have advocated the appointment of a Woman Inspector--a woman with tact and judgment and in other ways qualified--whose duty it would be to visit such people in their own homes, to point out to them the importance of cleanliness and domestic hygiene, and to instruct them in the methods of feeding and managing children. I venture to do so again, because I am persuaded that such a person would do most valuable work and that her help and instruction would be highly appreciated.

I am one of those who believe that England's greatness is largely indebted to the good mothers we had in days gone by, and I very much fear that neither the home-training nor the instruction the elder girls have received in our Elementary Schools for a very long time past have been of such a character as to fit them for the position they are to occupy later on in life.

I believe this to be a matter of the most far-reaching importance and one which calls for the most serious and earnest attention of our Legislators at the present time and I hope the day is not far distant when every child will receive systematic instruction in the laws of health and when all the elder girls will in addition be thoroughly grounded in simple cheap cookery and the practical duties necessary to make a home attractive and comfortable.

Sewage Disposal Works.

One of the circular percolating filters became blocked during the year in consequence of the filtering material becoming caked over.

This arose in consequence of the Contractor having failed to obtain the material originally decided upon, another was substituted which was approved by a leading Authority as well as the Council and unfortunately it failed.

At considerable cost the bad material was replaced by another and has since worked well. The samples of effluent which have been taken from time to time are satisfactory and those which have been examined by the County Analyst have quite satisfied him.

Refuse Destructor.

This has now been in operation since the end of April or beginning of May and has thoroughly and completely consumed all the foul matter carried thither from the ashpits, earth closets, &c., amounting to about 50 tons a day.

Factories and Workshops.

Over 50 visits were paid to the 14 Factories and 27 Workshops in the District. These with few exceptions were found to be satisfactory.

Some trifling defects were at once remedied.

The printed forms have been filled in and will be forwarded in accordance with instructions.

Scavenging.

Complaints have been made from time to time but on the whole the work has been fairly well done.

Water Supply.

This supply is from the Weardale Fells and is of excellent quality. The long droughty summer led to the lowering of the reservoirs, but although in some districts the supply was for some time restricted for manufacturing purposes, the Directors of the Company never limited the supply for domestic purposes but requested their consumers to avoid waste.

Recommendations.

1. To continue the demolition of Privy Middens.
2. To continue the Cementing or Asphalting of open spaces and back yards.
3. To push forward Street Making which is very much required.
4. To appoint a Woman Inspector for the District.

**Summary of Work done in Sanitary
Inspector's Department in 1905.
Public Health Acts.**

Notices served in consequence of :—

Structural defects in dwelling-houses	-	5
Ashpits and Privies	-	54
Defective Yard Paving	-	5
Defective Traps	-	13
House Drainage, other faults	-	11
Smoke Nuisance	-	1

Precautions against Infectious Disease.

Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease	57
Schools do	3
	<hr/> 149

I have duly filled in, and will forward, Statistical Forms to the Home Office, the Local Government Board, the County Council, &c.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

S. FIELDEN, M.D.,

M.O.H.

